(b) what would be the effect of such decision if other States also make State language compulsory at school level;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter to make State language compulsory in primary and secondary education; and

(d) if not, what steps Government are taking to avoid the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per the information received from the Government of Karnataka, mother tongue of a child or the Kannada has been made medium of instruction from first standard to fourth standard. In addition, passing of Kannada has been made compulsory in addition to any other two languages at the Secondary School Leaving Certificate level.

(b) to (d) States are advised to follow the Three Language Formula and the NCERT's National Curriculum Framework in view of National Policy on Education 1986. Accordingly, the primary education should be imparted in mother tongue and one of the languages to be studied at the secondary stage should be the regional language.

Welfare measures for women

†1463. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to take any effective steps for the welfare of women during the women's empowerment year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of activities proposed by the Department of Women & Child Development during the Women's Empowerment Year 2001

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

have been worked out and a Calendar of Events for the Women's Empowerment Year is given in the Statement. (*See* below) These are being implemented accordingly. The main thrust areas of Women's Empowerment Year 2001 include:

(i) **Legislative Reforms** including review of laws concerning women;

(ii) **New Programmes/Schemes** such as Integrated Women Empowerment Programme (named Swayamsiddha); a new programme for women in difficult circumstances; enhancing the corpus of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, etc.

(iii) **Advocacy & Sensitisation** through a concerted awareness raising through electronic, press media and also through workshops and seminars, exhibitions, competitions, etc.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Calendar of Events for the Women's Empowerment Year, 2001

Introduction

The Government of India has declared 2001 as Women's Empowerment Year (WEY). The purpose is to initiate and accelerate action to improve access to and control of resources by women so that they can take their rightful place in the mainstream of the nation's social, political and economic life. Its objective is also to create and raise large scale awareness of women's issues with the active participation and involvement of all women and men, and thus to build a just, equal and prosperous society in the 21st century.

A Task Force has been set up to finalise programmes for observing the year 2001 as Women's Empowerment Year. The Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development, and its organisations, *viz.*, National Commission for Women (NCW), Central Social Welfare Board, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh and NIPCCD will be coordinating and organising the activities for observing the year as Women's Empowerment Year. Ministries/ Departments in the Central Government as well as the State Governments will also be celebrating WEY 2001.

The Events Calendar outlines the highlights of events of WEY 2001. The activities include the launching of programmes, legislative changes, and a concerted programme for awareness raising through an integrated media strategy for the whole year, and also through workshops and seminars, exhibitions, competitions and film festivals. We look forward to the participation and involvement of all-Panchayati Raj. Institutions and Urban Local Bodies, Social Organisations, women and men in these planned and other activities, so that we work together and spare no effort in making the WEY a grand and long lasting success.

January

Human Rights for Women

* Launch of Women's Empowerment Year on 4.1.2001 and Award of Stree Shakti Puraskar
* National Consultation Meet for empowerment of Adolescent Girls-Kishori Shakti Yojana
* Workshop on 'Empowerment of Women—Breaking New Grounds' by NCW to celebrate completion of 10 years
* Meetings of AWWs at Block level on the importance of the year, sensitisation regarding Rights of Women, etc.
* AWWs to convene meetings of women's groups/mahila mandals at Anganwadi Centres

February

Economic Empowerment of Women

* National level seminar on Property Rights for Women
* Launch of an Integrated Self Help Group based programme for Empowerment of Women
* Expansion of banking facilities for women
* Micro Credit Summit

March

Social Empowerment of Women

- Legislative Reforms
- International Women's Day Celebrations
- Two-day Seminar on 'Forging Partnership with Judiciary, Police Administrators and Media' (NCW)
- Operationalising District level Committees on Violence against Women & Helplines
- Film Festival on Women
- Exhibition on 'Self Help Groups and Women's Empowerment'

April

Women in Difficult Circumstances

- Launch of a Scheme for women in difficult circumstances
- Gender training for Police, Judiciary, Revenue Officials
- Activating the Monitoring Cell in Government of India for trafficking

May

Women and Technology

- Technological Parks
- National Assessment on women friendly technology
- A travelling Exhibition on Women in Science

June

Women and Governance

- Tele-conference to create a dialogue between MPs/MLAs and grassroot women
- Intensification of leadership training for women members of panchayats

July

Women and Education

* Campaign to ensure 100 per cent enrolment rates for girls by Panchayats/Urban bodies, Social Organisations
* Countrywide poster competitions at school and college level
* Sampoorna Shiksha Scheme
* Educational tours for girl students to create awareness

August

Women and Health

* Intensification of health camps at PHC level with a focus on anaemia control and STI/RTI, towards safe motherhood for women
* Special programme on safe abortion
* Strengthening the scheme for training of Dais in 142 districts of 15 States where safe delivery rate is less than 30 per cent

September

Nutrition

* Launch of National Nutrition Mission
* National Nutrition Week
* Awareness campaigns on nutrition related issues
* South Asian Regional Meeting to take stock of progress towards gender equality: 'Challenges and Opportunities'

October

Women and Media

* Documentary film festival on women's issues
* Sensitisation of Media: A Workshop
* National Sports Meet for Women

November

Entrepreneurship in Women

* Use of traditional melas to propagate messages on women's Empowerment
* Participation in IITF, Delhi Haat
* Conference on Women Entrepreneurs

December

Vision for the Future

* National Convention on Future Strategies for Women
* Release of Books on 'Women in India'

Relaxation of HRA Rules in KVS

1464. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of powers conferred on the Commissioner of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for relaxing/amending relevant rules in vogue relating to payment of House Rent Allowance to KVS employees, who do not avail of the allotted/available official accommodation; and

(b) the details of KVS officers who have been showered upon such relaxation during the preceding two academic/financial years, alongwith the total amount paid on account of HRA in Delhi region and the justification thereof, if any?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Rules 22 in "Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (Allotment of Residences) Rules" confers all powers on the Commissioner of the Sangathan, or any other officer designated by him for the purpose, to relax all or any of the provisions of